

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION

# VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION **#CPA4IR** 5-9 JULY 2021

***ENABLING COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARIANS  
TO ADDRESS THE FUTURE, NOW***

Technological advancements and scientific breakthroughs will inevitably provide viable solutions to current and future challenges, from **ending global poverty, climate change and meeting the SDGs**, to **preventing future global pandemics**. The **COVID-19 pandemic** has already highlighted the need for those in power to play closer attention to scientists, researchers, statisticians and innovators.

This Conference will imagine how the **'4th Industrial Revolution'** might impact upon the lives of current and future generations within and across the Commonwealth and importantly, how parliamentarians and parliaments can stay ahead of the curve. It will seek to encourage and advocate for parliaments to embrace innovation and change. Parliaments will need to **legislate, regulate** and **scrutinise** complex and advanced technical changes in years to come, from the use of **bioengineering** to **artificial intelligence** as well as ensuring greater access to science and technology specialists.

The Conference will invite parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to join with industry leaders, innovators, experts and academics from the private, public and third sector in looking at a range of topics (see overleaf), within the scope of good governance, COVID-19, sustainable development, human rights, democracy and gender.

**For more information, contact:**

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**Or head to our website:**

[www.cpahq.org](http://www.cpahq.org)



# DRAFT OUTLINE PROGRAMME

**Monday 5 July 2021**

## WHAT IS THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION?

12:00-12:30 BST	<b>Official Opening</b>
12:35-13:45 BST	<b>Roundtable Session: Digital Democracies &amp; Closing the Digital Divide</b>
13:50-14:05 BST	<i>Showcase of Innovation in Parliament</i>
14:10-15:35 BST	<b>Panel Session: Regulating at Speed and Scale</b>
15:40-15:55 BST	<i>Regulating at Speed and Scale Showcase</i>

**Tuesday 6 July 2021**

## THE 4TH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

06:00-06:30 BST	<i>Showcase - innovation in green-tech</i>
06:45-08:15 BST	<b>Panel Session: Ensuring a Green Industrial Revolution</b>
08:20-08:50 BST	<b>1 to 1 Constructive Dialogue (non-moderated) – Green Cities of the Future</b>
08:55-09:10 BST	<i>Showcase: Green Communities and your Constituency</i>

**Wednesday 7 July 2021**

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, MACHINE LEARNING AND CONCERNS AROUND ALGORITHMS

10:00-10:30 BST	<i>Showcase on AI and its uses today</i>
10:45-12:15 BST	<b>Panel Session: The Potential (and Risks) for AI (Including in Carrying out Scrutiny)</b>
12:30-13:30 BST	<b>1 to 1 Discussion ('Fireside Chat' Format): The Importance of Combatting Algorithm Bias</b>

**Thursday 8 July 2021**

## EMERGING TECH AND THE CONTINUED IMPORTANCE OF TRUST: BIG DATA AND BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

14:00-14:30 BST	<i>Showcase on Big Data and humanitarian work</i>
14:35-15:05 BST	<b>Explainer Session: What on Earth is Blockchain?</b>
15:10-16:25 BST	<b>Panel Discussion: The Increasing Potential of Blockchain</b>
16:30-16:50 BST	<i>Showcase: Big Data and COVID-19</i>

**Friday 9 July 2021**

## THE INTERNET OF THINGS: CYBERSECURITY AND THE INTERNET OF THINGS

17:00-17:30 BST	<i>Showcase - IoT and maximising production processes</i>
17:45-19:00 BST	<b>Panel Discussion: Societal Benefits and Risks of the Internet of Things?</b>
19:15-20:00 BST	<b>Official Closing</b>